jramme under Ocean Development Pro gramme;

(b) if so, what have been the achievements of this,programme*so far; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to utilise the findings of Deep ■ Sea Exploration for the welfare of the country in a large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of the deep seabed exploration programme, India is the first country to be registered as a Pioneer Investor and has been allotted an exclusive mine site for extensive survey and exploration work in the Central Indian Ocean tty the Preparaory Commission for the International Seabed Authority (United Nations) under the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the related resolutions.

(c) The site allotted to India as a result of its achievements in the deep seabed exploration programme has rich concentration of poly metallic nodules which are resource materials for commercially important metals like copper, nickel and cobalt. At present, the entire demand of cobalt and nickel is being met through imports • and a considerable quantity of copper is also imported. If ultimately it is possible to exploit these resources commercially, it will help the country in its industrialisation and economic development.

1679. *[Transferred to the 1th August,* 1989]

Rank Pen-don to Retired Defence Personnel

1680. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVA JI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have decided to sanction Rank-Pension to retired defence personned w.e./ 1st January, 1986;

(b) if so, what is the number of bene ficiaries who have since been paid their Rank-pension aad the number of thoss whose cases are still under scrutiny and) ■ sanction;

(c) by when these cases are likely to be disposed of; and

(d) what will be the financial implications involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THB MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

निर्धारित समय सूची से पीछे चल रही परियोजनाएं

1681. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकारी क्षेत्र में निर्माणाधीन अनेक परियोजनाएं अपनी निर्धारित समय-सूची से पीछे चल रही हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वित्तीय वर्ष 1988-89 की समाप्ति पर ऐसी परियोजनाओं की संख्या कितनी थी जिनकी परियोजना लागत 20 करोड़ रुपए या उससे अधिक थी और वे अपने निर्धारित समय में पूरी नहीं हो पाई थीं ;

(ग) क्या इस समय कुछ ऐसी परियोजनाएं भी हैं जिनकी लागत उपर्युक्त परियोजनाओं के समान हैं और उनके समय से पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है, यदि हां, तो उनकी संख्या कितनी है; और

(घ) इन योजनाओं के समय से पूरा न होने के कारण इनकी वर्तमान लागत में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हो गई है ?